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United States Department of Agriculture,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY—Circular No. 20.

ADULTERATION OF ALFALFA SEED.

Seed of alfalfa has been obtained and tested in accordance with the following paragraph contained in the act of Congress making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture:

The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to obtain in the open market samples of seeds of grass, clover, or alfalfa, test the same, and if any such seeds are found to be adulterated or misbranded, or any seeds of Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*) are obtained under any other name than Canada bluegrass or *Poa compressa*, to publish the results of the tests, together with the names of the persons by whom the seeds were offered for sale.

In carrying out the provisions of this act, 352 samples of seed of alfalfa were obtained in the open market and examined. Of these, 160, or nearly one-half of the samples, were found to contain seed of the destructive parasitic plant dodder; 9 samples were found to be adulterated with seed of yellow trefoil, and 9 samples adulterated with bur clover.

Yellow trefoil is not used to any extent as a forage plant in the United States, but the seed is imported from Europe at about 5 cents per pound for use as an adulterant of red clover and alfalfa seed. Although bur clover is cultivated in the Gulf States, the seed found mixed with that of alfalfa is not the commercial bur clover seed of this country, but a by-product secured in cleaning South American wool, and is imported from Germany in low-grade alfalfa seed.

In accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress quoted, publication is here made of the names and addresses of the seedsmen who offered for sale the lots found to be adulterated, together with the percentage of adulteration in each lot:

Results of tests of samples of seed obtained in the open market as alfalfa seed and found to be adulterated.

Seed offered for sale as alfalfa by—		Seeds used as adulterants.		
Name.	Address.	Yellow trefoil.	Bur clover.	Total adulterants.
		Per ct.	Per ct.	Per ct.
Barrett Co., The W. E.	65-87 Canal street, Providence, R. I.	7.87	—	7.87
Caughy & Carran	620-624 Chamber of Commerce, Detroit, Mich.	—	8.79	8.79
Flower & Co., S. W.	Toledo, Ohio	3.75	3.90	7.65
Funk, J. J.	Fremont, Nebr.	10.54	1.31	11.85
Gilbreath Seed Co., Wm. S.	368 South Meridian street, Indianapolis, Ind.	5.53	6.96	12.49
Do.	do	38.27	5.90	44.17
Huntington & Page	130 East Market street, Indianapolis, Ind.	47.05	—	47.05
Kunkel & Sons, Martin	331 West Second street, Davenport, Iowa ..	35.75	4.11	39.86
Providence Seed Co	6 Exchange place, Providence R. I.	8.60	1.12	9.72
Ross Bros. Co.	90-92 Front street, Worcester, Mass	46.78	6.50	53.28
Teweles & Co., L.	113-119 Clybourn street, Milwaukee, Wis ..	—	20.28	20.28

In order that seedsmen, as well as farmers, may avoid the purchase of adulterated seeds, this Department will examine and report promptly as to the presence of adulterants and dodder in any samples of seed submitted for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted.

B. T. GALLOWAY,
Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Approved:

JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 6, 1906.*

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